GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:448
ANSWERED ON:21.10.2008
LAKSHADWEEP DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
Ravindran Shri Pannian

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up the Lakshadweep Development Corporation Limited (LDCL) at Agathi;

(b) if so, whether the Corporation has commenced its operation;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to start its operation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS(SHRIMATI RADHIKA V. SELVI)

(a): Lakshadweep Development Corporation Limited was set up in the year 1987 with its registered office at Agatti Island.

(b): The Corporation commenced its operation in the year 1990 after the first Managing Director was appointed as also the required staff. The office was functioning from Calicut for administrative convenience though the registered office remained at Agatti. Subsequently, in the year 1997, headquarters was shifted to Kavaratti Island as per the resolution passed in the extraordinary General Meeting held on 24th September, 1997.

(c) : The Corporation took over the Tuna Canning Factory in the year 1990. This factory was earlier managed by Department of Fisheries, UT of Lakshadweep Administration. It has also set up a Desiccated Coconut Plant in Kadmat island in the year 1993 followed by a Chakari and Vinegar processing unit in Kalpeni island in the same year. In 1994, the Corporation set up a Coconut Nursery at Androth. In 1995, massive expansion programme for meeting the storage facilities at Canning Factory, Minicoy was undertaken. In 1996, the company became the Nodal Agency for the Credit to Guarantee Scheme for encouraging entrepreneurship in the islands. In 2000, the shipping wing was established with take over of two passenger vessels of UT Administration. In the year 2001-02, four Cargo Barges of UT Administration were added to the shipping wing. In 2003, a Coconut Milk Plant was set up at Androth Island. In 2004, one all weather passenger vessel, M.V. Barath Seema of UT was taken over for management from the erstwhile operators, Shipping Corporation of India. Many more ships have been added to the fleet for the operation and management from 2006-08 and the Corporation is now a full-fledged shipping service provider to UT Administration of Lakshadweep. The Corporation at present is operating 18 vessels belonging to the Administration.

(d) & (e) : In view of the reply above, question does not arise.